LUCERNE TO BASLE Butterial Correspondence of The Tribune BASLE, July 13, 1851.

VERY striking is the contrast between all of Switzerland I had traversed, before reaching Lucerne, and the route thence to this place. From Como to the middle of Lake Lucerne is something over a hundred miles, and in all that distance there was never so much as onetenth of the land in sight that could, by any pos sibility, be cultivated. The narrow valleys, when not 100 narrow, were arable and generally fertile, but they were shut in on every side by dizzy precipices, by lofty mountains, often snow crowned, and either wholly barren or with only a few shrubs and stunted trees clinging to their clefts and inequalities, because nothing else could cling there. A fortieth part of these mountain sides may have been so moderately steep that soil could gather and lie on them, in which case they yielded fair pasturage for cattie, or at least for goats; but nine-tenths of their superficies was utterly unproductive and inhos pitable. On the mountain-tops, indeed, there is sometimes a level space, but the snow monopo lizes that. Such is Switzerland from the Italian frontier, where I crossed it, to the immediate

vicinity of Lucerne. Here all is changed. A small but beautiful river debouches from the lake at its west end, and the town is grouped around this outlet. But mountains here there are none-nothing but rich glades and gently swelling hills, covered with the most bounteous harvest, through which the high road runs north-easterly sixty miles to Basle on the Rhine in the north-east corner of Switzerland, with Germany (Baden) on the east and France on the north. A single ridge, indeed, on this route presents a ragged chiff or two and some hights dignified with the title of mountains, which seem a joke to one who has just spent two days among the Alps.

Grass is the chief staple of this tertile region, but Wheat is extensively grown and is just beginning to ripen, promising a noble yield. Potatoes also are extensively planted, and I never saw a more vigorous growth. Rye, Oats and Barley do well, but are little cultivated. Of Indian Corn there is none, and the Vine, which had given out on the Italian side some twenty miles below the foot of St. Gothard, does not come in again till we are close to the Rhine. But in its stead they have the Apple in profusion-I think more Apple-trees between Lucerne and the Rhine, than I had seen in all Europe before-and they seem very thrifty, though this year's yield of fruit will be light. There are some other trees planted, and many small thrifty forests, such as I had hardly seen before on the Continent. These increase as we approach the Rhine. There is hardly a fence throughout, and generous crops of Wheat, Potatoes, Rve. Grass, Oats, &c., are growing close up to the beaten road on either side. I don't exactly see how Cattle are driven through such a country, having passed no drove since crossing Mount St. Gothard

The dwellings are generally large, low structures, with sloping, overhanging roofs, indicating thrift and comfort. Sometimes the first story, or at least the basement, is of hewn stone, but the greater part of the structure is nearly always of wood. The barns are spacious, and built much like the houses. I have passed through no other part of Europe evincing such general thrift and comfort as this quarter of Switzerland, and Basle, already a well built city, is rapidly improving. When the Railroad line from Paris to Strasburg is completed, the French capital will be but little more than twenty-four hours from Basle, while the Baden line, down the German side of the Rhine, already connects this city casily with all Germany, and is certain of rapid and indefinite extension. Basle, though quite a town in Casar's day, is renewing her youth

THE SWISS. I am leaving Switzerland, after four days only of observation therein; but during those days I have traversed the country from its southern to its north-eastern extremity, passing through six of the Cantons and along the skirts of another, resting respectively at Airslo, Lucerne and Basle, and meeting many hundreds of the people on the way, beside seeing thousands in the towns and at work in their fields. This is naturally a very poor country, with far the most part a sterile seil-or rather, naked, precipitous rocks, irreclaimibly devoid of soil-where, if anywhere, the -cor peasantry would be justified in asking charity of the strangers who come to gaze at and enjoy their stupendous but most inhospitable mountains-and yet I have not seen She beggar to a hundred hearty workers, while in fertile, bounteous, sunny Italy, the preponderance was clearly the other way. And, though very palpably a stranger, and specially exposed by my ignorance of the languages spoken here to imposition, no one has attempted to cheat me from the moment of my entering the Republic till this, while in Italy every day and almost every hour was marked by its peculiar extortions. Every where I have found kindness and truth written on the faces and evinced in the acts of this people, while in Italy rapacity and knavery are the order of the day. How does a monarchist explain this broad discrepancy? Mountains alone will not do, for the Italians of the Apennines and the Abruzzi are notoriously very much like those of the Campagna and of the Val d'Arno; nor will the zealot's ready suggestion of diverse Faiths suffice, for my route has lam almost exclusively through the Catholic portion of this country. Ticino, Uri, Lucerne, etc., are intensely, unammously Catholic; the very roadsides are dotted with little shrines, enriched with the rudest possible pictures of the Virgin and Child, the Crucifixion, &c., and I think I did not pass a Protestant church or Village till I was within thirty miles of this place. Nearly all the Swiss I have seen are Catholics, and a more upright, kindly, truly religious people I have rarely or never met, What, then, can have rendered them so palpably and greatly superior to their Italian neighbors. whose ancestors were the masters of theirs, but the prevalence here of Republican Freedom and there of Imperial Despotism

Switzerland, shut out from equal competition with other nations, by her inland, elevated, scarcely accessible position, has naturalized Manufactures on her soil, and they are steadily extending. She sends Millions' worth of Watches, Silks, &c., annually even to distant America; while Italy, with nearly all her population within a day's ride of the Adriatic or the Mediterranean, with the rich, barbaric East at her doors for a market, does not fabricate even the rags which partially cover her beggars, but depends on England and France for most of the little clothing she has. Italy is naturally a land of abundance and luxury, with a soil and climate scarcely equaled on earth; yet a large share of her population actually lack the necessaries, not to speak of the comforts, of life, and those who sow and reap her bountiful karvests are often without bread: Switzerland has, for the most part, an Arctic climate and scarcely any soil at all and yet her people are all decently clad and

CLANCES AT EUROPE No. XXXIII. | adequately though frugally fed, and I have not seen one person who seemed to have been demoralized by want or to suffer from hunger since I crossed her border. Her hotels are far supel rior to their more frequented namesakes of Italy; even at the isolated hamlet of Airolo. where no grain will grow, I found everything essential to cleanliness and comfort, while the 'Switzer Hoff' at Lucerne and 'Les Trois Rois' at Basie are two of the very best houses I have found in Europe. What Royalist can satisfac-

torily explain these contrasts? -Switzerland, though a small country, and not half of this habitable, speaks three different languages. I found at Airolo regular files of Swiss journals printed respectively in French. Italian and German: the last entirely baffled me, the two former I read after a fashion, making out some of their contents' purport and drift; though whether they meant that 'Casar displayed great energy and assiduity in crossing the Alps,' or only that he 'crossed them on the top of a Diligence,' I could of course only guess. Those in French, printed at Geneva, Lausanne, &c., were executed far more neatly than the others. All were of small size, and in good part devoted to spirited Political discussion. Switzerland, though profoundly Republican, is almost equally divided into parties known respectively as 'Radical' and 'Conservative:' the Protestant Cantons being preponderantly Radical, the Catholic generally Conservative. Of the precise questions in dispute I know httle and shall say noth ing; but I do trust that the controversy will not enfeeble nor paralyze the Republic, now seriously menaced by the Allied Despots, who seem to have almost forgotten that there ever was such a man as WILLIAM TELL. Let us dfink, in the crystal current leaping brightly down from the eternal glaciers, to his glorious, inspiring memory, and to Switzerland a loving and hopeful Adieu !

SUMMER NOTES OF A HOWADJI.

Niagara.

Correspondence of The New-York Tribune

H. G.

AUGUST 2, 1851. The Rapids before Niagara are not of water only. The Cataract is the center of a vortex of travel, a Mælstrom which you scarcely suspect until you are swimming round in its intense swiftness, and feel that you are drawn nearer and closer, every moment, to an awful and unimagined Presence. The summer-bird of a traveler who skims up the Hudson dippingly, wending Niagara-ward, if he has never seen the Falls, and has heard of them all his life, (my case,) loiters along his way, quite unimpressed by the anticipation of his bourne. the grandeur of whose image in his mind the household familiarity of the name has quite destroyed. It is somewhat so with Switzerland after a residence in Europe. You approach halflanguidly, more than half-suspicious that the fixed stare of the world has melted the glaciers, and the snow sifted along inaccessible, rocky crevices, or at least sadly stained them, and that even the Alps have been lionized into littleness. But some choice evening, as if the earth had suddenly bared her bosom to the glowing kiss of the dying day, you behold the austere purity of the snow-Alps, incredibly lofty, majestic and awful, and the worship of remembrance is forever liv ing and profound.

So I came sauntering along through Western New-York, (sauntering by steam! and yet the mind may loiter, may remain fast and firm be hind, although the body flies,) and turned aside with my Presidential Antinous at Trenton, nor once paused to listen through its graceful whisper for the regal voice beyond. In the ravine at Tren ton you meet some chance friend returning from the Cataract, and you sit down upon the softest rock, where you can well watch the beautiful Amber-fall the while, and curiously compare, at this last moment, your own fancies with the Daguerrean exactness of his tresh impression-But after all, it is only curiously. You dream and wonder vaguely, and comparisons are constantly baffled by the syren-singing of the falling water, that will have no divided love; and, softened by the exquisite loveliness of the scene, your companion's present praises are much sincerer and more intelligible to you than his remembered raptures. Such a friend I met, and we discussed Niagara. But as he told his story, I was placing his stairs here and towers there, about the rock and the great sheet and the little sheet were before us; and Goat Island smiled greenly in the hold, beautiful bank that, like a verdured terrace, hung toward the stream from an enchanted palace in the Pines , and when the tale was told, I had a very pleasant, it somewhat incongruous fancy of Niagara, as a hind of sublimed and fitted-up-for-visitors Trenton.

And still, with memory clinging to the amber skirts of Trenton. I rushed along, on a day that veiled the outline of the landscape with scudding gusts of mist, through the most classical of all American regions : through Rome, and Manlius, and Syracuse, and Camillus, and Marcellus; ruthlessly on, through Waterloo, Ge neva, East-Vienna. Rochester, Cold-Water, Chili, (natural neighbors!) Byron, Attica and Darien; then drew breath enough to wondre that, with such wealth of resonant novelty of name inherited from the Indians, we so tenncionsly cling to the gone glories of old fames, to cover the nakedness of our newness, and saw at the same moment, that we had left classicality, that we had a name peculiar to our continent, and had arrived at Buffale! Why not Bison, Ox or Wild-horse? And this, too, with the waves audibly breaking along the shore of Lake Ontario, one of the most majestic and melodious of the Indian names, and hitherto unappropriated No wonder that the Buffalo sky thundered and lightened all night, from sheer vexation at its loss. I awoke at midnight to the music of a serenade that was vainly striving to soothe the tempest, and, later, the angry clash of the firebells stormed against the storm. But it was not comforted or subdued, and still, in the lull of the music and the pauses of the bells, I heard it muttering and moaning as it glared-"I, that am Buffalo, might have been Ontario"

But the storm wept itself away, and I awoke at morning to find myself upon the verge of the vortex of interest and excitement. All the previous day I had smiled rather loftily at the idea of excitement in approaching Niagara; but when my luggage was checked, and I bought a ticket for "Niagara Falls," and, stepping into the cars, knew that I should not alight until I heard the roar and saw the spray of the cataract ; then the sense of its grandeur, of its unique sublimity, which I perfectly knew, though I had never seen. came down upon me and smote me suddenly with awe, as when a man who has lottered idly to St. Peter's, grasps the leathern curtain to push it aside, that he may behold the magnificence whose remembered luster shall illuminate every year of his life.

It is remarkable that the anti-romance of a railroad is a mere sentiment. The straight lines piercing the rounding landscape are essentially poetic, and the fervid desire of sight and possession which fires the mind upon approach-

ing beloved or famous places and persons, takes adequate form in the steam, speed of a train. that, straight as thought and swift as hope, cleaves the country to the single point. In the wild woods we do not insist upon the prosaic character of the railroad, for many obvious reasons ; so that no one, I understand, not even the American poets, sigh for the good old times of staging from Albany to Ningara.

But in Europe, in lands of traditional romance, it is quite different. A railroad to Venice! Heaven forefend ! So said I, as I lumbered easily out of Florence in a vettura, comfortably accomplishing its thirty miles a day. Heaven forefend ' said I still, as we climbed the Apennines, and descending, rolled into quaint, arcaded Bologna, and listened beneath Raphael's St. Ceribs, to hear if no spirit of a sound trembled from the harpstrings. Heaven forefend' said I still, as we ogged along the Lombard post-roads, green and golden and glittering with the sumptuous swaving of the vines in the langual wind, as they hung from the grave, stiff old poplars, like beautiful, winning, bewildering arms of loveliness. caressing whole perspectives of solemn Quaker papas, and festooning the road as if the summer were a festival of Bacchus, and a jolly rout of Bacchanals had now reeled along to the banquet of Beauty.

Heaven forefend ' said I, as we tramped through the grassy streets of Ferrara, monthing very irregular quotations from Tasso, and utterly in credulous of Byron's fable of "Songless Gondoliers" beyond; and still, Heaven forefend ' said I, as, by the many-domed cathedral of St. An: tony, we mingled in the evening Corso, and, straining our eyes for the University of Padua, alighted at the hotel, thirty or forty miles or so from Venice. But when, the next morning, I opened my eyes, and, eschewing the cud of my dreams said to myself, "You are thirty miles from Venice." I sprang out of bed, like one whose mar riage morn has dawned, and cried aloud, " Thank God there is a railroad to Venice!

Nor could the speed of that railroad more than figure the eagerness of my desire, as it swept us through the vineyards. Nor did the dream of Venice dissolve, but deepen rather, for the strange contrast of that wild speed and that eternal, ro-

mantic rest. Why not let the American poets know that railroads thus highten romance, and that, if Ni agara rather gains than loses by the whirl that drives us thither, so do all spots of Niagarean importance. Yet what a whirl it is, as you approach the Falls! Within a certain circumfer ence, everybody is Niagarized, and flies in a frenzy to the center, as filings to the magnet. Before the train had stopped, and while I fancied that it was a way-station-I listening the while to the pleasant music of words, that weaned my hearing from any roar of waters-various men leaped from the cars, and ran like thieves, lovers, soldiers, or what you will, to the "Cataract," as the conductor said. I looked upon them at once as a select party of poets-It was an error. They were "knowing ones" of the large, warm style of man, intent upon the first choice of rooms at the "Cataract House." I arrived there and found a queue, as at the box-office of the Opera in Paris, a long train of travelers waiting to enter their names. Not one could have a room yet, (it was 10 o'clock,) but at half-past 2 every body was going away, and then every body could be accommodated.

- And meanwhile

- Meanwhile, Niagara Disappointment in Niagara seems to me af fected or childish. Your fancies may be very different, but the regal reality sweeps them away as weeds and dreams. You may have nour ished some impossible idea of one ocean pouring itself over a precipice into another. But it was wild whim of inexperience, and is in a moment forgotten; or it, standing upon the bridge of Goat Island, you can watch the wild sweep and swirl of the waters around the wooded point above-dashing, swelling and raging, but awful from their inevitable and resistless rush, and not feel that your fancy of a sea is paled by the chaos of wild water that tumbles toward you, then you are a child, and the forms of your thought are not precise enough for the profoundest satisfaction in great natural spectacles.

Over that bridge how slowly you will walk and how silently, gazing in awe at the tempestuous sea-sweep of the rapids, and glancing with wonder, but not eagerly, at the faint cloud of spray over the American Fall. And there, as the sense of grandeur and beauty smites your soul, you will still move quietly enward, pausing a moment, leaning a moment on the railing, closing your eyes to hear only Niagara; and ever, as a child says its prayers in a time of danger, slowly, and with strange slowness, repeating to yourself. "Niagara, Niagara."

For, although you have not yet seen the Cataract, you teel that nothing else can be the crisis of this chaos. Were you suddenly placed there, and your eyes unbandaged, and you were asked,

What shall be the result of all this " the answer would accompany the question, "Niagara." But we must still sport with our emotions Some philosopher will die, his last breath sparkling from his lips in a pun. Some fair and fated Lady Jane Grey will span her slight neck with her delicate fingers, and smile to the headsman that his task is easy. And we, with kindred feeling, turn aside into the shop of Indian curiosities and play with Niagara, treating it as a Jester, as a Bayadere, to await our pleasure.

Then, through the woods on Goat Islandsolemn and stately woods-how slowly you will walk again, and how silently' Ten years ago, your friend carved his name upon some tree here, and Niagara must now wait until he finds it, swollen now and shapeless with time. You but the light is moist and rick; and when you emerge upon the quiet green path that skirts the English Rapids, the sense of life in the waters. the water as symbol of life and human passion fills your mind. Certainly no other water in the world is watched with such anxiety, with such sympathy. The hopelessness of its frenzied sweep saddens your heart. It is dark, fateful, foreboding. At times, as if a wild despair had seized it and rent it, it swirls and struggles and dashes foam-flakes into the air. Not with kindred passion do vou regard it, but sadly. with folded hands of resignation, as you watch the death-struggles of a hero. It sweeps away while you look, dark, and cold, and curling, and the seething you saw is now an eddy of foam in shaped.

As yet you have not seen the Fall, you are coming with its waters, and are at its level. But groups of persons sitting upon vonder point. which we see through the trees, are looking at the Cataract. We do not pause for them, we run now, down the path, along the bridges, into the Tower, and lean far over, where the spray cools our faces, and the living water of the Rapids moves more majestically and undisturbed to its fall-vet as if torpid with terror, and the tumbling ocean that we saw, in one vast volume swooms over the parapet and pours itself away.

It is not all stricken into foam as it falls, but the densest mass is smooth, and almost of livid green. Yet, even as it plunges, see how the curls of spray exude from the very substance of that mass airy, sparkling, and wreathing upward into mist, emblems of the water's resurrection, dear as dreams of heaven to the dying. And we, looking over into the abyss, behold nothing below hear only a slow, constant thunder, and, bewildered in the spray, dream that the Cataract has cloven the earth to its center, and that, pouring its waters into the fervent inner heat, they rise again in spray, and overhang the fated fall with

the reality of its resurrection -Would you not more finely feel the grandent of Niagara, by the consummate contrast, if, as you stood shaken by its might, you held in your hand the Spanish hly, (do you know the flower there is none more beautiful ') and in that cold dash of spray you scented, at times, its penetrating fragrance, almost as if you heard the finest and most graceful fancies breathed in your ear, amid the sternest thunder of the cataract! Mine, for the moment, was that Spanish lily. Mine, in the roar and mist of Ningara, was that thoughtlike fragrance. Mine, therefore, and forever, the profounder impression of the scene

I must date once more from Niagara Your aff. HOWADIL

REVELATIONS OF JAPAN.

1. The Institutions of the Japanese

A Dutch traveler named Lauts, who resided for some time in the trading-port of Japan, has published a work entitled, "Japan in zijne staatskundige en burgerlijke Inrigtingen," (Japan in its Political and Civil Institutions.) which contains much that is new and curious respecting that mysterious Empire. We have translated and arranged for The Tribune the most interesting portions of his revelations. They will amply repay a perusal

The Japanese, like many other races, connect the fabulous period of their history with their religion. They consider the ruler of the Em pire to be descended from a divinity, who came down from Heaven upon the Japanese Islands. which be made fertile and populated, instructing he inhabitants in the arts of life and the doctrines of religion. In order that this supernatural race shall not become extinct, the Emperor is allowed twelve wives, and is succeeded by his eldest son. From this sanctity of origin is lerived the custom of never wearing the same clothes more than once. The dishes and cups which food and drink are handed to him are dso used but once; and likewise the cooking implements. Nevertheless, these vessels are not of varnished wood, which is mostly used throughout Japan, but of clay or porcelain, which, after one use, is shivered to pieces. The present reigning family dates back to the seventh century before Christ, and numbers upward of

The second son of the Mikade (Emperor) was formerly his father's chief military officer; but afterwards one of the rulers, out of love for his third son, made the office alternate triennally be tween the second and third sons. In the course of a few generations, so much lealousy arose be tween the alternate Generals, that, in their dissensions, the Emperor himself was robbed of the greater part of his power, and, since the year 1586, has been little more than a nominal ruler. However, he is still considered as holy and as absolute in power, though the Sjogun, or Crown-General, takes his place in all civil affairs.

Each chief city or province of Japan has two Governors, who relieve each other every alternate year. The one not in office remains in Jeddo, the Capital City of Japan, where he re ceives from his colleague regular communications concerning everything that occurs, so that he is ready to resume the authority at the appointed time. Every Governor has two Secretaries. who divide the departments of justice between them, and control the subordinate civil officers. During the absence of the Governor, Secretaries and Justices in the appoint wives and children are left in Jeddo, as hostages for the faithful performance of their duty. The Princes are subject to the same rules as the Governors, spending a year on their domain and a year in Jeddo alternately. During their absence from the Capital, they are obliged to live in the greatest seclusion, leaving their residence only on stated occasions. All their duties are so arranged beforehand, that they are mere automata in action. Besides this, they are surrounded with secret spics, who report all their movements to the Capital.

The government of the cities, at least at Nagasaki, the trading-port of Japan, is in the hands t nine Burgesses, whose office is hereditary They can only judge by a unanimous vote. Under them are the Ottomas, who have charge of a street or quarter, and who also direct the police and decide arbitrations. Under these again are the Kasaras, who take care of single houses and tamilies. In Nagasaki, as well as through the whole Empire, each street is 114 Dutch yards in length, with a door at each end, so that all communication with the rest of the city may be cut off Each street has a hundred or more houses ; at its end is a small shrine on a stone pedestal, shaped like a lantern, and containing two or three images of the gods. There are, also, in each street, several watch-houses, which at night and on all extraordinary occasions are provided with a watch, chosen by turns from among the inhabitants of the street. The Japanese con ander the watchman holy, and opposition to him or ridicule of his office are considered capital saunter on. It is not a sunny day. It is cloudy, offenses, and punished with death. In times of danger, each family furnishes one man; five men from the adjoining houses form a troop, and twenty-five troops march together under the command of the Kastras and the Ottomas.

The head of the family is responsible for his children and associates, no matter who the latter may be; besides which, every five adjoining families are responsible for each other. It is therefore the duty of each head of a family to take notice of the affairs of his neighbor, and acquaint the Kasira with everything that happens. It this is not promptly done, he is involved in his neighbor's, guilt and suffers the same punishment, even if it be banishment or death. This universal responsibility prevents many crimes and treasonable plots, and executions seldom the Niagara River below, before your thought is take place. The Judge disregards all mitigating circumstances in the exercise of his office; but he is careful to punish only when the laws have been knowingly and willfully broken. Nowhere is there greater security of person and property than in Japan. This cunning system, founded on reciprocal espionage and reciprocal responsibility, binds together as with an intricate net high and low, princes and subjects. From the arteries of the body politic it branches out into the finest hair-drawn channels in every department of trade and society.

Not only Princes, Ministers of State and other high officers transmit their stations to their eldest

sons, but officers, tradesmen and mechanics in general. Those who have no sons may adopt a brother or some other blood relation, or even a person of inferior rank. Princes, however, require the consent of the Emperor. A singular example of adoption happened during the reign of the Emperor Josi-Mune. The Prince of Fige was murdered in the Imperial Palace on a festival day, leaving behind neither a lineal nor an adopted son. When the Emperor was informed of this, he ordered that everything should happen as if the Prince was only wounded. The corpse was therefore seated in a litter and carried to the princely residence of Figo. where messengers every day arrived from the Emperor, inquiring how he fared. Finally, a messenger communicated to the corpse the imperial permission to adopt his youngest brother who was ordered to appear before the Emperor and be installed as successor, even if the Prince should in the meantime have died of his wounds The Prince of Figo was therefore "inwardly dead, according to the Japanese method of speech, while he was "outwardly" still in life. In this manner an official sometimes lives two or three years "outwardly," after he has actually died. This happens particularly when he has left debts at his death. His office is then administered by another, who receives only a portion of the salary, the remainder of which goes toward discharging his liabilities.

The principal punishments in Japan are ban

ishment, house-arrest, decapitation, crucifixion and disembowelling. Those condemned to banishment are sent either to a desert island, to a fortress in the mountains or to the cooper-mines. House-arrest is visited on high and low, and is alike dishonoring. The doers and windows are nailed up with boards, all connection with the street is prohibited, and the men are forbidden to shave. This punishment usually lasts a hundred days. Decapitation is performed with little ceremony. The Princes and other dignitaries have power to punish their ser vants and subjects with death, and beheading is frequently performed in the interior of the palaces, without occasioning particular notice. Crucifixion is inflicted in two ways-either with the head upwards or downwards. Those who suffer in the former way, sit upon a cross-piece which is fastened upon an upright post, their feet bound to a beam below. After the criminal has been fastened so that he cannot move, he is pierced repeatedly with a lance having a broad thin blade. It is said that the servants of justice are so skilled in their art, that they sometimes transfix the criminal's body sixteen times before he expires. Those who are crucified with their heads downwards, are suffered to die in that position. Sometimes small gashes are made in the top of the head, in order to liberate the over charged blood-vessels. This has the effect of prolonging life, and the terrible punishment is sometimes endured ten days before death n lieves the sufferer.

The act of disemboweling is a privilege of the better classes, who from their youth are all taught the rules and regulations under which it must be observed. On the occasion of performing the act, a particular garment must be worn. and the nobles never neglect taking it with them when they set out upon a journey. When a person is condemned to disembowel himself-which does not often happen-his sons and brothers, as well as his father and uncles, are all obliged to perform the same operation on themselves. All receive the sentence, so that the act is done by all at the same time. The condemned person invites his most intimate friends, and assembles with them frequently in the inner court of a temple, where they carouse and drink liberally of sake, (a strong liquor prepared from rice, which is used in Japan instead of wine.) The condemned then pro nounces a farewell address, takes leave of his friends, and after the imperial command has been read aloud, draws his sabre, leans forward and makes a straight cut across his body. A favorite servant or one of his friends stands behind him and immediately strikes his head off. In this manner, the tonid are helped out of the world. Those who are bolder sometimes gash their body in the form of a cross, and end by plunging the

blade into their throats. Voluntary disemboweling is to Nobles or warriors make use of it when, through their own neglect or the guilt of their subordinites, they have reason to anticipate punishment. Governors also perform it, when some misdeed has happened within their jurisdiction, the perpetrator of which they cannot point out. In all these cases the Japanese prefers voluntary disemboweling to a slight but dishonorable punishment, since he thus preserves the honor of his family and secures his son's succession in the office. The same operation is also performed in the presence of a person by whom the suicide has been injured or offended. In Japan an insult can only be washed out by one's own blood.

Although there is no division of castes in Japan, as in China and India, the different classes are distinctly separated, and it is almost impossible for one of a low rank ever to reach a higher, except through adoption. The highest class is the nobility, which is again divided into the higher and lower, the former of whom are allowed to wear white garments. Next come the warriors, who carry sabres in their girdles; and then the priests, who in rank alone, but not in position, stand higher than the former. The intelligent class consists mostly of civil officers. physicians and other scientific men. They have the right to wear sabres and pantaloous-a right also possessed by the lowest of their servants. To the lower classes belong the merchant, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the farmer and the day-laborer. According as a trade or profession is held in the public estimation, are the persons who carry it on respected or despised. Thus the artist, and even the farmer, though they are gen erally poor, are more respected than the merchast, no matter how great may be his wealth.

The peasants and the lower classes are exposed to all kinds of oppression, and pass their lives, with few exceptions, in a state of the greatest misery. Leather-dressing and everything connected with it, is the most despised occupation. Those who carry it on are shut out from respectable society. The executioners are always chosen from amongst them, and they are therefore the most degraded class of men.

Printers in California. For The Tribune

A friend, writing from San Francisco, states that on the day succeeding the fire there was but one printing press running in that city. This ible-cylinder fast press, formerly used by The New-York Tribune. During the fire it was taken down; all the small parts, screws, boits, &c. buried in a barrel under ground, and other portions removed out of danger. The press was in this situation at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when, the danger being over, Messrs. George Amerige and C. Stedman, two New-York pressmen, took hold of it, with their sleeves rolled up. They got it in operation again, and drove off the editions of four of the San Francisco papers, which made their appearance next moraing, as though nothing had occurred. Is not this a feat that can challenge to be beat! No wonder California goes ahead.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"THE PLANETARY SYSTEM : ITS DE. DER AND PHYSICAL STRUCTURE," by J. P. NICHOLS ts a new work by this active-minded Professor, on the phenomena of the Solar System. Although it makes some use of the language and illustrations employed in his previous volume on the same subject, it is intended as a detailed introduction to the study of an extensive division of astronomical science, requiring no profound mathematical acquisitions for as comprehension, and adapted to the study of all integs gent readers. The earnestness, and even enthusiasm of Prof. Nichol's style, his lucid illustrations and comparisons, and his cordial devotion to the cause or popular science, make this volume a very agreeable and instructive one, in spite of its frequent touches of pomposity. (12mo. pp. 344. Hippolyte Bulliere.)

THE SPECTATOR."-A neat edition of this never-to-be-forgotten memorial of a literary age, before the reign of modern excitements, has been issued by Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. It is in four convenient duodecimo volumes, and contains sketches of the lives of the authors, with an index, and explanatory notes. (Sold by Dewitt & Davenport.)

OREGON.

The Land Bill and its Effects-Speculation.

Correspondence of the Tribune.
Paciete Cirv. Oregon. June, 1831. The Land Bill of Oregon, which gives to all, with no stinted hand, will convince its settlers of this fact, that a quantity of land, to any large amount, held by single individuals or single families, is not desirable, and is productive of evil, not good.

The Land Bill makes, to a certain extent, land monopolists of all the residents in Oregon, who choose select land and reside upon it. country prior to December 1st, 1850, a full section's given to every family, and a half-section to every un married man, and half this amount to all who come after December 1st, 1850, and prior to December 1st. 1853. In California and Oregon there are an unprecedented proportion of unmarried men . many of these will select their claims, and comply with the requirements of the law, sufficiently to hold them All married and unmarried men will be eager to claim the full quantum which the law allows. The prairies and most desirable and fertile portions will be first taken. The land taken, for the most part, cannot be disposed of bargained or promised, till after the expiration of four years from the time it became the residence of the claimant. He must affirm he took it for his own use and cultivation.

It will be seen at once how scattered and disointed a community, thus settled, must necessarily be, and how large a proportion of the most desirable land must remain uncultivated. The emigrants to Oregon, having families, will feel the inconvenience of this arrangement as soon as they arme, and seek a location. They will find a sufficiency of unoccupied land. They can settle on it, and they will find themselves solitary and alone. The basis of wealth, comfort, and prosperity is abundant in Oregon, but the present arrangement for its settlement is not calthe present arrangement for its settlement is not cal-culated to develop its wealth, or give it a cheerful and home-like aspect. A mile square, or half that quantity of land, bestowed upon one man in such, manner that he cannot dispose of it, or any part of it, for four or eight years, is too restrictive is promote the best interest of civilized man. It amounts to a decree, that three-fourths of the less portion of Oregon shall for years remain uncult-vated, and that these who altempt to settle it shall here a left or sections.

vated, and that these who already to better a same live a life of seclusion.

What is the remedy ! Leosen the ligament which bunds. Why should so much territo y be condemned to barrenness for so many years! Why say to the resident in Oregon, You may select and appropriate, for yourself and yours, 640 acres of land, and not bargain or promise it to another, under pain of foffen-ore! Why not let the land of Oregon be free at once, ure Why not let the land of Oregon be free at once, and at the disposal of those who desire to occupy it. But what can be done Suppose Congress should so amend the Oregon Land Bill, that those actually entitled to land, by resulting on it and entitivating it for four years, could have the privilege, by paying the Government price for one-half of it, the other had being secured as at present to the wife, of becoming the legal owners of the land at other, and save thright to dispose of the same—the find thus raise to constitute a school fund for Oregon, and be at this posal of her people.

Index such an arrangement, compact neighborhoods would soon be formed. The sections week be portioned out in commoditors farms, and the whole

Under such an arrangement, compact neighborhoods would soon be formed. The sections would be portioned out in commodious farms, and the who of our beautiful prairies brought under cultivation. The basis of a home could be secured to the wire and characteristics. The basis of a home could be secured to the wire and children of many who are not now in a situation to reside on a farm for four consecutive years.

There is no doubt that many who are now holding a whole section would avail themselves of such a provision, and thus create a large school fund for Oregon, all would chable those holding claims projectly situated for town sites, at once to give validations. The circumstances of Oregon seem to require some such provision.

Those who emigrate to Oregon may expect to find a state of things not common in new countries. The spirit of speculation is on the wing. Different micrests pull different ways. There are some ten or more points, within twenty mites of the mouth of

spirit of speculation is on the wing. Discreti mer-ests pull different ways. There are some ten or more points, within twenty miles of the mouth of the Columbia, all of which hope to become the great port of the river. The stranger who visits these different points, and obtains a description of the country from each, will feel bewildered, and will learn to place but little confidence in anything he hears. The hand of speculation is as cold, fingers of avarice are as icy in Oregon as country.

INDIANA.

Wheat Crops-Corn Prospects-Peru and Indi-anapolis Railroad-New Whis and Fre Soil Paper-New Constitution, &c.

NOBLEVILLE, Ind., Thursday, July 10.

In no previous year have the wheat crops in Indiana equaled those of 1851. In quality and quantity, the wheat is twenty-five percent, about of what it ever has been before. The corn looks fine, and there is every reason is

believe that it will be a splendid crop.

The President of the Indianapolis and Peru Railroad has made arrangements to complete the Road to the latter place at an early day. This Road is doing a paying business. The Shelbyville and Edic burg Railroad (branch of the Indianapolis and Madi son) has been purchased by the Louisville Company. with the obvious intention to draw away the trade from the interior of Indiana to Kentucky, and to build up Louisville and retard the growth and trade of Madison.

The Whigs are getting up a new paper here, to be called The True Whiz. It will, it is understood, take ground against the late Compromise measures, at least against the Fugitive Stave Bill, and ann to consolidate the Whig and Free Soil vote, and to concentrate their power in favor of Gen. Scott for the next Presidency. Scott is popular in Indiana. If he ould receive the entire Whig and Free Soil vote, he ould carry Indiana, but there is a strong and general feelile. could carry Indiana but there is a strong an ral feeling in favor of the Compromise meas

Indiana
There is a diversity of sentiment in refere
the new Consecution. The great majority of
and Democrats, however, will vote for its
there are some thousands, of all parties, who and Demosing the useful of all parties. If it shall be against it, because of its negro clause. If it shall be adopted, it will introduce some progressive and president features into somety in general, and into our ucational and legal matters in particular. It provide for the sale of over seventy-five County Seminaries to the sale of over seventy-five County Seminaries of the sale of over seventy-five County Seminaries. which were erected at the expense of the popular general, while the benefits derived from their open tions are limited to county towns. It will take it appointment of certain high and important office out of the hands of the legislative bodies, and feavilt where it should be, in the hands of the people. Will allow any man to practice law in our Courts, he have a good moral character, and it will seem several other reformatory measures. The way for the new Constitution will be a majority of at less fifty thousand.

FIRE-PROOF BUILDINGS IN SAN FRANCISC Fire-proof Buildings in San Francisco-Keisey, Smith & Risley's new pre-proof brida suniding, on Clay-st., we observe, has been set down as among those burned. We rejoice to know that this is a mist came to the substantial store of the above named gentlemen, whose fire-proof qualities (harmonic department), which is a superior of the fire-proof property of the fire-proof immense benefit in stopping the progress of the fire fire fire fire-proof in the course east and south. Indeed, had it as been for these strong fire-proof houses, rendered department, and sound judgment, great cost and car in their construction) impervious to fire, so humas efforts could have stopped the onward course of the recovering element in that direction. Meses, ket in their construction) impervious to fire, he efforts could have stopped the onward construction impervious to fire, he efforts could have stopped the onward construction and congratulating them upon cape from the awful calamity and we presulvill be happy to see their friends and custom their old stand," and furnish them with all in their line of business. [San Fran. Mora.